Pending court cases

405. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases pending where both petitioner and defendent are Government or its Departments;

(b) the percentage of such cases with regard to total pending cases;

(c) whether Government are planning any steps for a speedy disposal of such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from the High Courts and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts and Fast Track Courts etc.

Vacations in courts

406. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has suggested to judiciary to cut down vacations to help clear pending cases while addressing the meeting of Chief Justices and CM's on the 18th September, 2004;

(b) if so, the judiciary's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of cases pending in various High Courts as on the 13th September, 2004; and

(d) the steps being taken by the judiciary to expedite disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No resolution was adopted by the Chief Justices and Chief Ministers' conference with regard to curtailing of vacations. However, various resolutions were adopted on reduction/elimination of arrears, a few are enlisted below:

Resolved that management exercises be carried out in all courts to reduce arrears on priority basis including exercises on caseload management, court and resource management, by working out a Judge-case ratio instead of a Judge-population ratio.

Resolved that the Fast Track Court scheme be continued for a period of 5 years beyond 2005 and Fast Track Magistrate Courts on similar lines be established.

Resolved that in-house mechanism may be developed for resolution of disputes in litigation to which Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Government corporations are parties.

Resolved that additional Family Courts may be created assisted by marriage counseling bureaus and officers.

(c) Pendency position in various High Courts as available in the Department of Justice is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Various steps taken to expedite disposal of cases include periodically monitoring the pendency position in courts, grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, timely filling up the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of disputes resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Statement

Pendency position in High Courts

(As on 30.6.2004)

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	544426	173278	717704
2.	A.P.	133222	15507	148729

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bombay	288454	37330	325784
4.	Calcutta	206321	39896	246217
5.	Delhi	84111	15344	99455
6.	Gujarat	115374	24318	139692
7.	Guwahati	49222	7049	56271
8.	H.P.	17188	5231	22419
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	42581	2343	44924
10.	Karnataka	117048	9442	126490
11.	Kerala	110535	19732	130267
12.	Madras	244856	19535	264391
13.	M.P.	134752	56160	190912
14.	Orissa	86169	15810	101979
15.	Patna	60427	28057	88484
16.	Punjab & Haryana	189447	55087	244534
17.	Rajasthan	135432	40336	175768
18.	Sikkim	28	11	39
19.	Uttaranchal	30309	5688	35997
20.	Chhattisgarh	36235	20478	56713
21.	Jharkhand	11996	12510	24506
	TOTAL	2638133	603142	3241275

Pending cases

407. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that are more than three years old pending in various High Courts and District Courts year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;